

**Amendments To The Specification:**

At page 6, between lines 17 and 18, please insert the following paragraph:

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**--Brief Description of the Drawings**

The present invention will be more fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

Figure 1 illustrates a cross section of a tie having both truncated cone indentations;

Figure 2 illustrates the bottom surface of a tie having truncated cone indentations in a staggered arrangement;

Figure 3 illustrates a tie having a staggered arrangement of indentations;

Figure 4 illustrates an embodiment of a tie with a staggered arrangement of truncated pyramid indentations; and

Figure 5 illustrates a tie with shapes of different depths. --

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At page 6, beginning at line 18, please delete the paragraph and replace it with the following paragraph:

--The shapes of the indentations can vary. For example, the shapes can be diamond, oval, square, rectangular, hemispherical, octagonal, etc., having angled sidewalls. Preferably, the shapes of the indentations are either a truncated cone or a truncated pyramid. The impressions within a particular tie can be all the same or can be different. For example, a tie can exhibit both truncated cone indentations (as shown in, for example, Fig. 1) and truncated pyramid indentations (see, for example, Figure 4).--

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At page 6, beginning at line 24, please delete the paragraph and replace it with the following paragraph:

--These shapes are repeated, regularly or irregularly, preferably regularly, along the bottom and/or the sides of the tie. The locations of the shapes can be regular such as rows and columns. See, e.g., Figure 2. Alternatively, the pattern can be staggered (see, e.g., Figures 3 and 4) or the indentations can be randomly distributed.--

At page 7, beginning at line 21, please delete the paragraph and replace it with the following paragraph:

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By --In a preferred embodiment, the depth of the shapes in the regions below where the tie comes into contact with a tie plate is less than 1", for example, 1/8" to 3/4", especially 1/4" to 1/2". However, the depth of the shapes in other regions can be up to 2 inches. See, for example, Figure 5. Since the regions beneath the tie plates are where the railroad spikes or other fastening means are attached, it is desirable to limit the depth of the indentations so that attachment of the spikes will not induce splitting of the tie.--

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